

# EVERYONE IS A PEDESTRIAN



## CROSSING ADVICE FOR PEDESTRIANS

Most of us cross streets every day. We take for granted that we can cross without incident, because most of the time we do. But sometimes we aren't so fortunate.

Each year about 7,000 pedestrians die and 100,000 are injured in traffic accidents. Young children and the elderly are more likely to be killed or injured in a pedestrian crash.

While it is easy to blame drivers, they are not always responsible for these accidents. All too often, pedestrians are the cause of accidents.

These senseless tragedies don't have to happen. You can avoid potential injuries and even death by reviewing the advice for safe street crossing.

## CROSSING RULES FOR PEDESTRIANS

ALWAYS follow these steps when crossing a street:

- Before crossing, stop at the curb, edge of the road, or corner before proceeding
- **Look left-right-left**, and if it's clear, begin crossing, looking over your shoulder for turning vehicles.
- Continue to check for traffic while crossing.

## TRAFFIC SIGNAL MESSAGES AND THEIR MEANINGS

- At intersections with traffic lights and pedestrian signals, it's important to follow the signals carefully. Wait until you see the WALK signal, following, again, the basic rules for crossing.
- A flashing DON'T WALK signal indicates you shouldn't start to cross the street. However, if you are in the middle of the street and the DON'T WALK signal starts flashing, continue walking. You have time to complete the crossing.
- If you see a steady DON'T WALK signal, don't begin to cross the street! Wait for the next WALK signal.
- The WALK signal and the green traffic light indicate that it's your turn to cross the street, but they

do NOT mean it is SAFE to cross. The WALK signal and the GREEN light mean LOOK, and then, if it's safe, go.

Remember to make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Don't take a walk signal, a green traffic light, or a driver for granted. Crossing safely is your responsibility. Remember, it's up to you.



U.S. Department of Transportation

**Federal Highway Administration**